Lesson #10

We’re going to be looking at a really cool way we can subtract certain strums from our strumming pattern to create interesting feels and rhythms.

In this lesson, we’re going to learn:

- how to subtract certain down strums from our strumming pattern to create interesting rhythms
- a song: **Puff the Magic Dragon**
- how we can vary a strumming pattern for parts of a song

You will need to know the following chords:

![C chord diagram]

To play a C major chord, place your **ring finger** on the 3rd fret of the bottom string. The remaining strings ring completely open.

![Em chord diagram]

To play an Em chord, place your **index finger** on the 2nd fret of the first or bottom string, your **middle finger** on the 3rd fret of the second string and your **ring finger** on the 4th fret of the third string. Let the top string ring completely open.
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To play an F major chord, place your **index finger** on the 1st fret of the second string and your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the top string or the fourth string. Let the first and third string ring completely open.

An A minor chord is really easy to play. Simply place your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the fourth or top string and let the bottom three strings ring completely open.

To play a G7 chord, place your **ring finger** on the 2nd fret of the first or bottom string. Place your **index finger** on the 1st fret of the second string. Place your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the third string. Let the top string ring completely open.
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D7

This is a chord you want to barre. To play a D7 chord, lay your index finger across all four strings on the 2nd fret. While these strings are barred, place your middle finger on the 3rd fret of the first or bottom string.

Strumming Pattern #6

For all the strumming patterns you’ve learned so far, there has always been a down strum on beats 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the measure. For this strumming pattern, there isn’t a down strum on the 3rd beat of the measure. Take a look.

It’s not that the 3rd beat of the measure is missing—it’s still there—but you’re not playing anything on the 3rd beat of the measure except the up strum on the ‘and’ of 3. As shown by the curved line (called a tie) connecting the ‘and’ of beat 2 with beat 3, let the up strum from the ‘and’ of beat 2 ring out through beat 3.

Once you get comfortable just playing over a C major chord, practice switching from a C chord to an Em chord, as shown in the next example.
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Next, take a look at the chord chart for ‘Puff the Magic Dragon’ on the following page.
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Puff the Magic Dragon

verse 1:

Puff, the magic dragon lived by the sea,
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.
And little Jackie Paper loved that rascal Puff,
And brought him strings and sealing wax, and other fancy stuff

chorus:

Oh, Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea,
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.

Together they would travel on a boat with billowed sail,
Jackie kept a lookout perched on Puff's gigantic tail.
Noble kings and princes would bow whene'er they came.
Pirate ships would lower their flags when Puff roared out his name.

[chorus]

verse 2:

A dragon lives forever, but not so little boys,
Painted wings and giant's rings make way for other toys.
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C                 Em               F             C
One gray night it happened, Jackie Paper came no more,
F                C   Am     D7         G7       C  G7
And Puff that mighty dragon, he ceased his fearless roar.

C                Em       F                      C
His head was bent in sorrow, green scales fell like rain.
F              C       Am    D7              G7
Puff no longer went to play along the cherry lane.

C                Em      F                 C
Without his lifelong friend, Puff could not be brave.
F                C   Am        D7        G7     C  G7
So Puff that mighty dragon, sadly slipped into his cave.

[chorus]

Practice Objectives

Focus your practice on these things before you move to the next lesson:

- learn strumming pattern #6
- learn how to play “Puff the Magic Dragon”
- try switching to down strums for certain parts of “Puff the Magic Dragon”, as shown in the video lesson
- practice applying the strumming patterns you’ve learned in past lessons to the new songs you’ve been learning (e.g. use strumming pattern #5 to play “I’ve Been Working On the Railroad”)

Remember, this course is a two way conversation between you and me, so if you have a question, don’t forget to post it in the online member’s area for this lesson!